

REMARKS

The Section 103 Rejections

Claims 1-7, 10-13, 16-19, 20-25 and 28-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over alleged admitted prior art (Fig.1) in view of Willebrand, U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0149811 ("Willebrand"). Applicants respectfully disagree and traverse these rejections for at least the following reasons.

Claims 1-16 of the present invention require an RF base station that comprises: (a) first wireless RF communication equipment; (b) wireless optical communication equipment coupled to the first wireless RF communication equipment, and adapted to communicate signals, between the first wireless RF communication equipment and processing/control equipment; wherein (c) the first wireless RF communication equipment and the processing and control equipment are not co-located, as in claims 1-16 of the present invention.

Claims 17-19, 22-25 and 28-30 require :(a) the modulation of a signal representing an RF signal onto an optical signal; (b) the transmission of the optical signal by wireless optical communication equipment to a processing/control section; (c) wherein the processing/control section is a significant distance from an RF antenna.

In contrast, the alleged admitted prior art discloses an RF base station with its RF antenna and processing/control sections connected by a cable (i.e.,

the connection is a “wired” connection); not a wireless connection as required by claims 17-19, 22-25 and 28-30 of the present invention. Willebrand does not make up for this deficiency.

In Willebrand, there is no disclosure or suggestion that the antenna section of an optical transceiver 104 is separated, either wirelessly or wired, by a significant distance from its processing/control section, as is required by claims 17-19, 22-25 and 28-30 of the present invention. Instead, Willebrand appears to disclose the connection of multiple optical transceivers 104 in order to provide alternative communication paths.

In sum, neither the alleged admitted prior art nor Willebrand discloses or suggests wireless optical communication equipment that communicates signals between RF wireless communication equipment (e.g., an antenna) and processing/control equipment, where the RF communication equipment and processing/control equipment are separated by a significant distance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdraw of the rejections and allowance of claims 17-19, 22-25 and 28-30.

CONCLUSION

Entry of this Request for Reconsideration (“Request”) is requested because the Request: (a) places the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) does not raise any new issues regarding further search and/or considerations; (c) does not present any additional claims without canceling the corresponding number of finally rejected claims;

and (d) places the application in better form for appeal, if an appeal is necessary. Entry of this Request is thus respectfully requested.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John E. Curtin at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

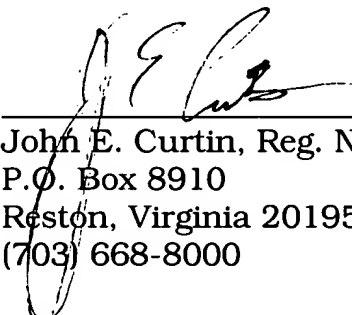
In the event this Response does not place the present application in condition for allowance, applicant requests the Examiner to contact the undersigned at (703) 668-8000 to schedule a personal interview.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKEY, & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By



John E. Curtin, Reg. No. 37,602
P.O. Box 8910
Reston, Virginia 20195
(703) 668-8000